

CLAIMS

1. A method of obtaining from a population of cells those cells which produce an antibody which recognises an antigen of interest, said method comprising:
 - 5 a) bringing into contact:
 - i) a population of cells at least one of which is capable of producing an antibody;
 - ii) an antigen of interest;
 - iii) an antibody-particle complex wherein said antibody recognises an antigen of interest and said particle enables recovery of said complex; and
 - 10 b) recovering from the population, those cells associated with the antibody-particle complex.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein parts i) to iii) are performed simultaneously.
- 15 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the population of part i) is brought into contact with the antigen of part ii), optionally followed by at least one wash step, followed by contact with the complex of part iii).
- 20 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the antigen of part ii) is brought into contact with the complex of part iii), optionally followed by at least one wash step, followed by contact with the population of part i).
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the antigen of part ii) is present on the surface of a cell.
- 25 6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the particle is a particle capable of being isolated using a magnet.
- 30 7. A method of isolating an antibody which recognises an antigen of interest comprising:
 - a) bringing into contact:
 - i) a population of cells at least one of which is capable of producing an antibody;
 - ii) an antigen of interest;

iii) an antibody-particle complex wherein said antibody recognises an antigen of interest and said particle enables recovery of said complex;

b) recovering from the population, those cells associated with the antibody-particle complex;

5 c) culturing a plurality of those cells associated with the antigen-antibody-particle complex;

d) screening the cultured cells to identify those cells capable of producing an antibody which recognises an antigen of interest; and

e) isolating said antibody directly or indirectly from the cells.

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8. An antibody prepared directly or indirectly according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 7.

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9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The use of an antibody according to claim 8, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a disease or condition.